

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01144 041400Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 CPR-01 EURE-00 /063 W
-----041407Z 126718 /50

P R 041303Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2593
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSULATE LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1144

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL DAY

REF STATE 91466

1. WE IN PRAGUE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR EFFORT
THIS EMBASSY HAS MADE IN PAST AND WILL MAKE AGAIN THIS YEAR TO
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COUNTER FALSE INSINUATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REGIME THAT MAY 9
LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1945 WAS ACCOMPLISHED SINGLEHANDEDLY
BY THE RED ARMY. BY LIMITING THEIR ATTENDANCE IN THOSE CASES
WHERE INVITATIONS DISTORT HISTORICAL FACT, AND, IN ADDITION, BY
CORRECTING THE HISTORICAL RECORD SHOULD SUBJECT OF 1945 LIBERATION
COME UP IN CONVERSATION, OUR COLLEAGUES IN OTHER POSTS WILL
BE MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR EFFORT HERE, WHICH THIS YEAR WILL

BE SPECIAL.

2. ON MAY 7 AND 8, I AND MEMBERS OF MY STAFF PLAN TO TOUR AREAS OF WESTERN BOHEMIA LIBERATED IN 1945 BY AMERICAN TROOPS. STARTING IN CESKE BUDEJOVICE, WE WILL TRAVEL NORTHWEST ALONG THE BATTLE LINE HELD BY GENERAL PATTON'S FORCES IN THE DIRECTION OF PILSEN AND CHEB. I WILL PLACE WREATHS ON MEMORIALS TO U.S. SERVICEMEN AT VITEJOVICE, POLE, LNARE AND PILSEN/LITICE. AFTER OVERNIGHTING IN PILSEN, I PLAN TO ATTEND MASS AT ST. BARTHOLEMES CHURCH IN PILSEN WHERE AMERICAN SOLDIERS OFFERED MASS IN MAY 1945, THEN PROCEED TO CHEB ON WESTERN BORDER WHERE I WILL LAY ANOTHER WREATH BEFORE RETURNING TO PRAGUE MAY 8.

3. MY INTENTION IS MAINLY TWO FOLD. FIRST, I WISH TO COUNTER DISTORTION OF HISTORICAL RECORD BY SHOWING AMERICAN FLAG IN PERTINENT AREAS ON ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION. SECOND, I WISH TO INSPECT CONDITION OF MEMORIALS, SOME OF WHICH OUR MILITARY ATTACHES HAVE REPORTED HAVE BEEN REMOVED, ALTERED OR NEGLECTED. I INFORMED GOC OF MY INTENTION TO TOUR THESE AREAS AND TO LAY WREATHES BY LETTER MAY 3 IN WHICH I WELCOMED PARTICIPATION BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR LOCAL PEOPLE, MENTIONING IN DOING SO THAT U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE ALLIED IN TWO WORLD WARS. MY INTENDED ACTIONS, TO BE CARRIED OUT WITH DIGNITY AND SOLEMNITY APPROPRIATE TO THE OCCASION, CAN HARDLY BE CONSIDERED PROVOCATIVE, AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT THEY WILL CONTRAST FAVORABLY WITH LOCAL PROPAGANDA OVERKILL PRAISING ROLE OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES IN LIBERATION.

4. I HOPE TO GENERATE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY FOR TOUR AND ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE THROUGH USE OF VOA. FOR MUNICH: RFE MAY WISH TO USE CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS STORY AS WELL, BUT I ASK THAT AURA OF DIGNITY WE ARE TRYING TO CREATE NOT BE OFFSET BY ANY POLEMICS.

5. INCONSISTENCIES OBSERVED IN LANGUAGE IN INVITATIONS TO CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS ARE ROOTED IN FALSEHOOD OF ASSERTION THAT RED ARMY ALONE LIBERATED THIS UNFORTUNATE COUNTRY. EVEN THE DATE IS A DISTORTION: CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL DAY SHOULD REALLY BE CELEBRATED OCTOBER 28, (DECLARATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK STATEHOOD, 1918). WITH COOPERATION OF OUR COLLEAGUES AT OTHER POSTS, WE HOPE TO FURTHER THE IDEAL OF THE OLD HUSSITE MOTTO: PRAVDA VITEZI (TRUTH SHALL CONQUER).
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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